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the precaution of outlining a form of procedure to recommend to the state councils of defense in case the organization of research committees is decided upon.

The Committee therefore recommends that a letter be sent to the proper officer of all the state councils of defense which have not already organized research committees, embodying the points considered below, and that a letter offering the complete co-operation and assistance of the National Research Council be sent to those state councils which have already organized research committees.

The National Research Council has carefully considered the question of the general organization of State Committees or Councils of Research, and has come to the conclusion that such organization should be determined by local needs and conditions. Local causes, such as the development or investigation of natural resources or the proper development of the use of research methods in industries, or the correlation of industries with research laboratories already existing at educational institutions, may make it very desirable to organize such state research committees. In fact, the present emergency offers, in some respects, an unusual opportunity for improving the correlation of industry and research, and it is highly desirable that those concerned with this development should not only consider it with reference to the emergency but should also plan for the permanent continuance of any research committees which may be formed.

If such a committee is decided upon, the National Research Council is desirous of co-operating in every possible way and suggests the following scheme of organization: Committees should be organized under the State Council of Defense (or similar official body) and at least their general expenses provided for by the state: they should be representative of the universities and other leading educational institutions through members chosen from their scientific and engineering research departments and also of those industries in which applied science plays the most important part. In choosing the personnel of the Committee in accordance with this general scheme, it is recommended that it include some representation from the committees on research of the universities of the state. Such a State Research Committee would be chiefly active through subcommittees assigned to consider particular questions, but should have a permanent secretary to handle correspondence and through whom close contact could be maintained with the National Research Council.

Upon motion, this report was adopted, and the recommendations contained therein approved.

CARY T. HUTCHINSON, *Secretary*.

## NOTICES OF BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIRS

The following biographical memoirs has been published by the Academy since the last notices of such memoirs appeared in the December, 1916, number of the PROCEEDINGS.

ALFRED MARSHALL MAYER (1836-1897). By ALFRED G. MAYER and ROBERT S. WOODWARD. *Biographical Memoirs of the National Academy*, 8, pp. 243-272.

This Memoir follows the life-work of Alfred M. Mayer according to the outline: Ancestry, Early Self-education, Friendship with Joseph Henry, Successive College Positions, varied scientific interests and publications, 'Mayer's Law for Human Audition', Interest in Natural History, Magnetic Studies, Foreign Visits, Inactive Middle Period, and Fruitful Close of Life. A bibliography of 76 titles concludes the Memoir.

EDWARD SINGLETON HOLDEN (1846-1914). By W. W. CAMPBELL. *Biographical Memoirs of the National Academy*, 8, pp. 347-372.

This Memoir recounts the life-work of Edward S. Holden: Early Education, West Point and Army Service, Appointment at the U. S. Naval Observatory, the Great Nebula in Orion, Popular Articles and Textbooks, Librarian in U. S. Naval Observatory, Work at the University of Wisconsin, Solar Eclipse of May 6, 1883, Transfer to the Lick Observatory, and Up-building of its Staff, Photography of the Moon, Librarian of the U. S. Military Academy at West Point. The numerous titles of his contributions cover 15 pages.